

Executive Director's Report

For May 2006

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Lincoln Trail Libraries System
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ISL Delivery Meeting

Physical delivery of materials has long been a core service for the library systems and the Illinois State Library. With more and more electronic access to resources, physical delivery is increasing at a great rate. The Illinois State Library invited Library system directors, CARLI representatives, and staff to participate in a discussion of the future of delivery in Illinois. The first meeting was held at LTLS on May 5.

Digital Past

On May 2, I attended the NSLS workshop on the Digital Past. Digital Past is a local history digitization project undertaken by libraries, historical societies, museums, and other cultural venues in northern Illinois in partnership with the North Suburban Library System in Wheeling. Libraries other than NSLS libraries can now join Digital Past. I went to the workshop to consider the possibilities of partnering with NSLS rather than launching our own project.

ILSDO

ILSDO met at the Shawnee Library System on May 10. The meeting covered a variety of topics including Delivery, Cooperative LSTA Grants, and the ILSDO Budget for FY 2007. ILSDO also had several other "quick" meetings in conjunction with other meetings. The primary topics of those meetings were the cooperative grants. The opportunity that ISL has given us to work together on these projects has been good for us to talk about the variety of options for things that libraries need.

Talking Book and Braille Service Award

Several consultants and I attended the state-level reception for the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) and its network of four Talking Book Centers (TBCs) which was named the 2005 Network Library of the Year by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This was a well-deserved honor. The state service is part of the ISL and there are four sub-regionals. Lincoln Trail patrons are served by the Mid-Illinois Talking Book Service from East Peoria.

IOUG

The Illinois OCLC Annual Users Conference was held in Springfield on May 17 and 18. The conference was filled with wonderful presenters--Joe James, University of Washington; Maggie Farrell, University of Wyoming; Susan Singleton, CARLI; Jennifer Pearson, OCLC; Cathy DeRosa, OCLC; and others. There were 50-70 people in attendance.

OCLC Members Council

On May 21-22, I attended the final 2005-2006 OCLC Members Council Meeting in Dublin, Ohio. There was a lot of discussion about the planned merger of RLG with OCLC. The main topic of the meeting was partnerships, and we heard a presentation by Kenneth Hamma from the J. Paul Getty Museum. He talked about the need for more partnerships between libraries and museums and about some of the key differences in these two cultural institutions. It was a good meeting and provided a lot of opportunities for future cooperative activities.

Strategic Plan

A draft of the LTLS Strategic Plan was distributed to the LTLS Board at the May Board meeting. The Board approved the plan to be distributed to the members for comments. Included in the plan are a new mission statement, vision statement, and five strategic directions. The annual plan to ISL was based on the draft plan.